

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, US, EGEN

SUBJ: US-ALGERIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

REF: JERUSALEM 3631; STATE 085347

1. MAY7, ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOMIC OFFECER HIGGINSON, I CALLED ON DEPSEC GEN PRESIDENCY HAMDANI, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF ALGINT BOUSSELHAM, TO MAKE OPENING PRESENTATION ON US-ALGERIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS FOLLOW UP TO SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE APRIL 29-30.

2. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS JERUSALEM REFTTEL, I STRESSED THAT WE WERE PRESENTING ILLUSTRATIONS BASED ON OUR APPROACH TO SAUDIS BUT THAT WE RECOGNIZED DIFFERENT SITUATION OF ALGERIA AND WERE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT STRUCTURE AND DIRECTION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM

3. I TOLD HAMDANI SECRETARY AND DEPT WOULD BE FOLLOWING UP ON OUR EFFORTS TO INTENSIFY US-ALGERIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON.

4. HAMDANI LISTENED INTENTLY AND TOOK NOTES ON THE FIVE AREAS OF OUR SAUDI PRESENTATION: (A) INDUSTRIAL
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AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (B)ENERGY; (C) TRADE;

(D) FINANCE AND INVESTMENT; AND (E) TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. I ALSO REFERRED TO OUR SUGGESTION TO SAUDIS THAT A JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED.

5. FOLLOWING ABOVE PRESENTATION FROM REFTELS I OBSERVED THAT WE WOULD AWAIT ALGERIAN REACTION AND THEREAFTER COULD DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF JOINT COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBJECTS IN MORE DETAIL. I ADDED THAT SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP COULD FOCUS HIGHEST LEVEL ATTENTION ON INTENSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, HELP COORDINATE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE EFFORTS, AND FACILITATE U.S. GOVERNMENT SPONSORED TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. WE WOULD NOT HOWEVER WANT A COMMISSION OR OTHER ENTITY TO CREATE A BUREAUCRATIC BARRIER.

6 AS CURRENT EXAMPLE OF PROJECTS IN WHICH U.S. GOVERNMENT IS TAKING INTEREST, I MENTIONED AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ALGERIAN MINISTRY HYDRAULICS FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING IN CONNECTION WITH A SATELLITE PHOTO INTERPRETATION LAB IN ALGERIA. I ALSO LEFT WITH HAMDANI A PIECE OF PAPER ON GENERAL MOTORS STUDY GROUP WHICH IS VISITING ALGERIA MAY 17-22.

7. HAMDANI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION FOR OUR PRESENTATION AND INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS AFTER MATTER HAD BEEN STUDIED WITHIN GOA. HE ALSO UNDERTOOK TO HELP PLAN AND COORDINATE VISIT OF GENERAL MOTORS STUDY GROUP, AND DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATION MAY 8 HE INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GM GROUP'S VISIT AND POSSIBLE PROPOSALS RE MANUFACTURE OF AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS FOR EXPORT WITHIN THE ARAB AREA. EAGLETON

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